

Janette A. Bertness
Associate Judge
Workers' Compensation Court

Judge Bertness graduated from Clark University, Worcester, Massachusetts in 1979 with a bachelor of arts degree in Chemistry. She earned a master of science degree at Brown University in Organic Chemistry in 1981. Before law school she was a research chemist at Pfizer, Inc. She graduated cum laude from Suffolk Law School in 1986 where she served as a technical editor of *Suffolk Law Review*. Thereafter, she clerked for Rhode Island Supreme Court Justice Florence K. Murray. Judge Bertness is continuing her studies for a master of judicial studies at the National Judicial College in Reno, Nevada. She was admitted to the Rhode Island Bar in 1986 and to the United States District Court for the District of Rhode Island in 1987. Prior to taking the Bench, Judge Bertness was a litigation associate with Roberts, Carroll, Feldstein and Pierce concentrating in workers' compensation and insurance defense. She also worked as a registered lobbyist 1988-1992, representing private industry and industrial trade groups. She was appointed to the Bench in 1993 by Governor Sundlun and was sworn in on July 14, 1993. Judge Bertness served as a reviewer for the American Medical Association's *Guides to the Evaluation of Permanent Impairment, 5th Edition*. Presently, Judge Bertness serves as treasurer for the Rhode Island Trial Judges Association, as a fellow of the Rhode Island Bar Foundation and on various committees. She is the past chair of the Board of College Regents for the International Association of Industrial Accident Boards and Commissions (IAIABC) and past president of the Rhode Island Legal/Educational Partnership.